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December 7, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman Federal Communications Commission 455 12th Street, Southwest Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA," File ID 1114050901562) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, MB Docket 05-311.

For several years, my husband Richard Harper taped and broadcast interviews and visits with the people in our "Resource Directory" -- community group and local NGO members who provide services in a rural and underserved community. It was a popular introduction to activities people might not otherwise know existed in our Towns. Those shows are available for rebroadcast. Today, we tape free local concerts for the "Almost Live on Channel 15" series that brings music to people who can't get to the events. It is programming like this as well as taping most public meetings of local governments that makes this community media center so valuable.

This local presence enables the residents of Highgate VT and most of Franklin County to watch our own local programming about our community and local events and issues of interest to all of us. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act -- to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining "franchise fee" in an overly broad fashion to include "in-kind" support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Onna H. Harper
Anna K. Harper